



*Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
116 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Telephone (801) 538-1571
Toll Free 1-888-854-4260*

Utah Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations

*Commissioner Carol Page, Chair
Representative James Gowans, First Vice Chair
Ken Bassett, Vernal City Manager, Second Vice Chair*

*Mark Bedel, Executive Director
Jamie Jensen, Secretary*

MINUTES January 15, 1999 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. State Capitol, Room 223

Members:

Present

Commissioner Carol Page, Chair
Ken Bassett, Vernal City
Robert Haywood, Dept. of Human Services
Leah Ann Lamb, DEQ
Jeff Burkes, Dept. of Natural Resources
Mayor Chesley Christensen, Mt. Pleasant
John Quick, Dept. of Transportation
Representative Marda Dillree

Absent

Senator Millie Peterson
Representative James Gowans
Lou Mueller, City of Blanding
Linda Hamilton, City of South Ogden
Commissioner Gary Herbert
Rod Betit, Dept. of Health
David Winder, DCED
Ann Wilcox Hardy, Citizen Appointee

Visitors:

Wayne Saltzgiver, Governor's Office
Sam Dawson, Sandy City Police Department
Scott Mickelsen, Salt Lake County Sheriff
Ray Milliner, GOPB
Steve Proctor, UCAN
Cory Lyman, Salt Lake City
John Williams, Southwestern AOG
Sara McCormick, Center for Public Policy & Admin.
Brent Gardner, UAC

Staff:

Mark Bedel, GOPB
Jamie Jensen, GOPB

I. Approval of the December 11, 1998 Minutes

There was no approval of the December 11, 1998 minutes. A quorum was not present at the meeting. Minutes from the December 11th meeting will be approved at the February meeting.

II. 800 MHz Communication System Sam Dawson, Sandy City Chief of Police Captain Scott Mickelsen, Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office

In 1997 the Legislature passed a bill that authorized the formation of the Utah Communication Agency Network

(UCAN). This was to examine putting together a statewide 800 MHZ system for Public Safety and other uses. A board was formed, elections were made, and representatives were selected from across the state. There are ten elected positions on the board from local government, and five appointed positions from state government. UCAN is independent from state government and is controlled by the fifteen member Board of Directors. Public Safety started working with Motorola, who began the process by drawing “footprints” of the various counties and agencies for coverage. Each area of the state was able to look at their footprint to make sure that it provided coverage that they needed in their areas. This was brought back together in a general overall plan of how much equipment would need to be purchased. After about a year and a half, a user fee was developed that was based upon the total cost of the system minus the federal funds that have now been received. The balance worked out to \$17.50 per radio on the system for local agencies and \$30.00 for state agencies. These radios have the capability of having an open channel, as you move throughout the state so that contact can be maintained with the dispatch. It also has the capabilities to turn that off. The 800 MHZ radio can then be used to access any venue you are in. Communication will be opened up for all of the agencies that are using this system as they move about the state within the nine county area. In the future, this will be expanded throughout the state.

“Refarming” is the auctioning of more frequencies for commercial uses by the FCC. It is driving Public Safety out of the 150 MHZ and 450 MHZ channels. 800 MHZ is the area that has been identified for Public Safety. UCAN is priced out at 17 million dollars. Public Safety is moving forward in this 800 MHZ system, and it has got to be paid for. This is the Public Safety system throughout the nine county area. The rural areas outside the nine county area may or may not be impacted by refarming for some time to come. The FCC has split the size of the channels in half, and if they sell a channel right next to one of the Public Safety channels, they are going to get interference very quickly, and make their radio system ineffective, and then they will be looking to come onto the 800 MHZ system. Public Safety currently has 6 million dollars in the bank to be used to make payments on the system, and on Jan. 19, a contract is being signed with Motorola Finance to finance this system. However, they are realistic, and recognize that there may be additional costs. Public Safety would like to get UACIR to assist them in getting the Legislature to recognize the 800 MHZ system as a priority system. Public Safety would like and appreciate their interest in the 800 MHZ system. They are willing to provide any information, or to testify before any committees to stress the importance of the system. Public Safety will forward a copy of a talking paper for lobbying to the UACIR staff, and seek additional help in the lobbying effort from the National Association of Counties.

III. Recommendations for New Appointments to the UACIR **Mark Bedel, GOPB**

A handout with recommendations from Utah Association of Counties for consideration in being appointed to the UACIR was distributed. As requested, all recommendations are members of the Democratic Party in order to keep a balance of political parties. Of the six county commissioners recommended, four have consented to serve on the UACIR Council if appointed by the Governor. Discussion ensued concerning the priority order for forwarding the recommendations to the Governor.

IV. Bills Affecting Local Government **L. Brent Gardner, Association of Counties**

Brent discussed bills that the UACIR might be interested in. There are several bills that are being targeted to try to have the Legislature adopt. Two of these are appropriations items. Representative Chard has taken on the task of trying to draft legislation that would combine jail contracts and jail reimbursement for funding purposes into one piece of legislation. The biggest hurdle is trying to get the funding through the governor’s budget and through appropriations committees. Another funding item that UAC has been working with are television transmitters. The counties in the state have built and maintained a very unique television translator system. The system’s purpose is to get commercial stations out to the rural areas. Other bills and legislation were also discussed. The UACIR will be getting current lists of bills from the Association of Counties and the League of Cities and Towns as they come up. It was decided that these will be helpful for the Council to look at and discuss.

V. Establishment of Subcommittees for the 1999 Intergovernmental Summit

Mark Bedel introduced the idea of establishing three subcommittees to plan for the 1999 Intergovernmental Summit. The subcommittees will include 1) Logistics such as facilities, food, and advertising; 2) Sponsors and 3) Program. Mark suggested that at least one member of the UACIR be on each subcommittee as well as others who might be interested. UACIR members will be asked to consider working on one of the subcommittees and to suggest other individuals to. The Summit is held in August, but a date has not yet been set.

VI. Other Business

A thank you letter was presented to Mayor Christensen for his service as chair of the UACIR during 1998. A special thanks goes out to Mayor Christensen, Chair, Representative Robert Killpack, First Vice Chair, and Carol Page, Second Vice Chair for all of their service this past year.

It was announced that Ray Milliner, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, will be assisting the UACIR staff. He was introduced to members of the Council at the meeting.

Sara McCormick announced that the Center for Public Policy and Administration publishes the annual survey of local government finance data. This is data that cities, counties, and all government entities must submit into the State Auditor's Office. This expenditure, debt, and revenue data is put into a database. If you are interested in getting this information, please contact Sara McCormick at (801)581-6491 or find the State Auditor's website at <http://www.sao.state.ut.us/>.

If there is anything that you would like addressed at the next meeting, please call Mark Bedel.

The next meeting has been changed to February 19, 1999, at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held in the State Capitol in room 225 unless otherwise notified. If there is a room change, a sign will be posted on the door. Please note that the February meeting has been moved up a week to allow the UACIR more time to discuss bills before the legislative session ends.